

Warning means 116 includes an oval base 118 having a mast 120 integral therewith and projecting outwardly from one face 122 thereof adjacent one extremity as shown in FIG. 6. The opposite face 124 of base 118 is in complementary engagement with and is bonded to the outer surface of crown 114. If hat member 112 and base 118 are formed of thermoplastic materials, base 118 may be fused to crown 114 by the application of heat thereto. Mast 120 is formed from a resilient material and is of a diameter such that the same may be folded or bent at a location denoted by the numeral 125 adjacent to the connection of mast 120 with base 118.

A pennant 126 is secured to the outer end of mast 120 and serves as a warning device therefor. Pennant 126 may be formed in the same way as pennant 26.

A U-shaped spring clip 128, having a bight 130 and a pair of opposed sides 132, is secured at the bight 130 thereof to base 118 so that sides 132 project outwardly from face 122 as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5. Spring clip 128 is, as shown in FIG. 6, adjacent the opposite extremity of base 118 and in alignment with mast 120 so that, as the latter is folded or bent at location 125, mast 120 will pass between sides 132 and will be gripped thereby so that mast 120 will be releasably maintained in the retracted position thereof illustrated in FIG. 3. In this position, mast 120 extends rearwardly of hat member 112 and does not interfere with the vision of the wearer. As shown in FIG. 5, sides 132 may be coated with the same material which forms base 118, and a washer 134 or the like secured to bight 130 may be used to assure a firm interconnection between bight 130 and base 118 when bight 130 is embedded therewithin. Clip 128, however, may be secured in any suitable manner to base 118.

In use, mast 120 is normally in the retracted position shown in FIG. 5 during normal water skiing operations, but if the wearer is spilled into the water upon loss of control of his skis, the force of the water on mast 120 and pennant 126 will move mast 120 out of spring clip 128 and the resilience of mast 120 will cause the same to extend upwardly from base 118 and be maintained in an upright position with respect to crown 114. Thus, pennant 126 may be viewed from substantially all directions and therefore provide a signal to warn approaching or passing boats of the presence of the wearer in the water.

The present invention, therefore, provides a warning device which can be observed from substantially all directions and at relatively large distances from the wearer so as to signal the presence of the wearer in the water. In the embodiment of the invention shown in FIGS. 3-6, the warning means is maintained in a retracted, inoperative position until ready for use and is automatically

moved into an operative, observable position when the wearer is spilled into the water.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A safety hat for water skiers comprising:
 - a hat member having a crown section and adapted to be worn over the head of the user thereof;
 - a resilient mast secured to the hat member and biased toward a location extending upwardly from said crown section, said mast being movable relative to said hat member into a folded position in close, direct overlying relationship to said crown section;
 - means on the crown section of the hat member for normally maintaining the mast in said folded position and operable to release said mast to its normal upward position upon impact of the mast against the water when the skier falls; and
 - means defining a warning device on the upper end of said mast.
2. A safety hat as set forth in claim 1, wherein is provided a base rigidly mounted on the outer surface of the crown, said mast being integral with said base.
3. A safety hat as set forth in claim 1, wherein said hat member is formed from a flexible material, and wherein is provided a base bonded to the outer surface of said crown, said mast being integral with the base.
4. A safety hat as set forth in claim 3, wherein said base has an inner surface complementally engaging said outer surface of the crown when said base is secured thereto.
5. A safety hat as set forth in claim 1, wherein said maintaining means includes a spring clip.
6. A safety hat as set forth in claim 6, wherein said maintaining means includes a U-shaped spring clip having a bight and a pair of sides secured to the bight, said bight being coupled with said hat member in spaced relationship to the mast, said mast being disposed between said sides and releasably gripped thereby when said mast is in said position.
7. A safety hat as set forth in claim 6, wherein is provided a base bonded to the outer surface of said crown, said mast being integral with said base, said bight being rigidly secured to said base with said sides extending outwardly therefrom.

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